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Message Text

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21
ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2370

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, BM
SUBJ: COUP PLOTTER'S U.S. ASYLUM REQUEST REPORTED

1. AS PART OF THE COUP PLOT TRIAL COVERAGE, THE BURMESE PRESS ON SEPTEMBER 29 CARRIED THE SUMMARIZED TESTIMONY OF THE U.S. CONTRACT EMPLOYED BURMESE GUARD ON DUTY AT THE GATE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE JULY 2, WHEN CAPT. OHN KYAW MYINT APPEARED IN ORDER TO REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM. THE GUARD'S TESTIMONY WAS A STRAIGHTFORWARD AND GENERALLY ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS WHICH TRANSPIRED. HE SAID A MAN WHO CLAIMED TO BE "OHN KYAW" FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTRY APPEARED AT THE GATE ASKING TO SEE THE AMBASSAODR, WHO WAS NOT AT HOME AT THE TIME; HE THEN CALLED THE BEARER IN THE RESIDENCE, WHO CALLED THE MARINE AT THE EMBASSY, WHO CALLED THE DUTY OFFICER. THE DUTY OFFICER, MR. MURPHY, ARRIVED AND SPOKE TO "OHN KYAW," HE CONTINUED, AND THEN CALLED THE CONSUL FROM MANDALAY (SIC, ACTUALLY THE ACTING DCM); AND THE TWO OF THEM DROVE AWAY WITH "OHN KYAW" IN THE CAR. AFTER HALF AN HOUR THEY RETURNED, AND THE CONSUL GOT OUT AND WAITED FOR THE AMBASSADOR WHILE MR. MURPHY DROVE OFF AGAIN WITH "OHN KYAW." THE AMBASSADOR RETURNED AND TALKED TO THE CONSUL, AND THEN THE CONSUL WENT TO A NEARBY BUS STOP AND WAS PICKED UP BY MR. MURPHY.

2. ON OCTOBER 1, THE PRESS CARRIED THE TESTIMONY OF FORMER DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE SERVICS INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR
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COL. AUNG HTAY, RECOUNTING THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU CHIEF COL. TIN OO THE MORNING OF JULY 3. AGAIN, THE TESTIMONY WAS STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND ACCURATE. COL. AUNG HTAY, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, SAID THE AMBASSADOR TOLD COL. TIN OO THAT AN ARMY OFFICER HAD COME TO HIS RESIDENCE THE PREVIOUS NIGHT, WHEN HE WAS ATTENDING A DINNER GIVEN BY THE PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR; THAT THE DUTY OFFICER, MR. MURPHY, WAS CALLED AN IN TURN CALLED MR. BULLINGTON; THAT MR. BULLINGTON HAD INFORMED HIM OF THE OFFICER'S REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM, WHICH HE REFUSED TO GIVE; AND THAT MR. BILLINGTON AND MR. MURPHY THEN TOOK THE OFFICER DOWNTOWN AND DROPPED HIM OFF.

3. ALL PAPERS PRINTED IDENTICAL ACCOUNTS, AS SUPPLIED BY THE INFORMATION MINISTRY (EXCEPT FOR SLIGHT DIFFERENCES OF TRANSLATION IN THE TWO ENGLISH-LANGUARE DAILIES).

4. THE ASYLUM REQUEST ASPECT OF THE STORY WAS NOT UNDULY EMPHASIZED IN THE PRES, BUT WAS MERELY CARRIED AS PARTS OF VERY LENGTHY STORIES RECOUNTING ALL OF THE TESTIMONY GIVEN AT THE SEPTEMBER 28 AND 30 SESSIONS OF THE TRIAL.
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